



Lanchester EP Primary School

Special iApps Case Study

December 2018 – January 2019

Introduction

Lanchester EP Primary School is based in County Durham in the North East of England. It is a mainstream school supporting 419 children aged 3 to 11 years, 86 pupils have additional needs.

The school trialled Special Words, Special Numbers and Match & Find for 5 weeks with 3 children who have Special Educational Needs in their 1:1 sessions from December 2018 through to January 2019.



Child A - Age 4 with ADHD and Autism using Special Words

Before being introduced to Special Words, Child A was quiet and her speech was very limited. After using the app for at least 10-15 minutes each day we observed that she was speaking more. She worked through all of the activities and shortly after matching pictures to pictures; she quickly advanced to the next activity matching words to words and words to pictures, which was great to see.

We are very pleased with the changes we've observed in her and also the improvements she has made whilst using the apps. Even though the app allows you to personalise, there was more than enough words, pictures and sounds already in the app to keep her engaged and interested and support her learning.

We introduced the apps to her parents who later purchased them all to continue her learning at home for weekend use and during the Christmas holiday. We were surprised to see her learning had advanced when she returned to school after the Christmas break. Using the apps at both home and school during her 1:1 sessions has allowed her learning to develop even more than we expected.

Child B - Age 8 with Autism using Match & Find

Child B has poor memory skills and struggle to retain what has been said. Using the app Match & Find for at least 15 minutes per day has allowed him to really grasp the activities in the app especially as he gets excited to use an iPad. Match & Find has allowed us to see an improvement in him and he is definitely more responsive. We started with matching pictures, changing to pictures and words, then just words and finally words and pictures. Memory matching in the app increased his confidence especially with the clapping at the end of each activity. He really enjoyed this app.



Child B - Age 8 with Autism using Special Words

After the success of using the app Match & Find, we started using Special Words in his 1:1 sessions. The activities in Special Words exceeded our expectations, showing us that he can read the words more fluently than we realised. He reads more using the app, whereas before it was not always the case that he would want to read.

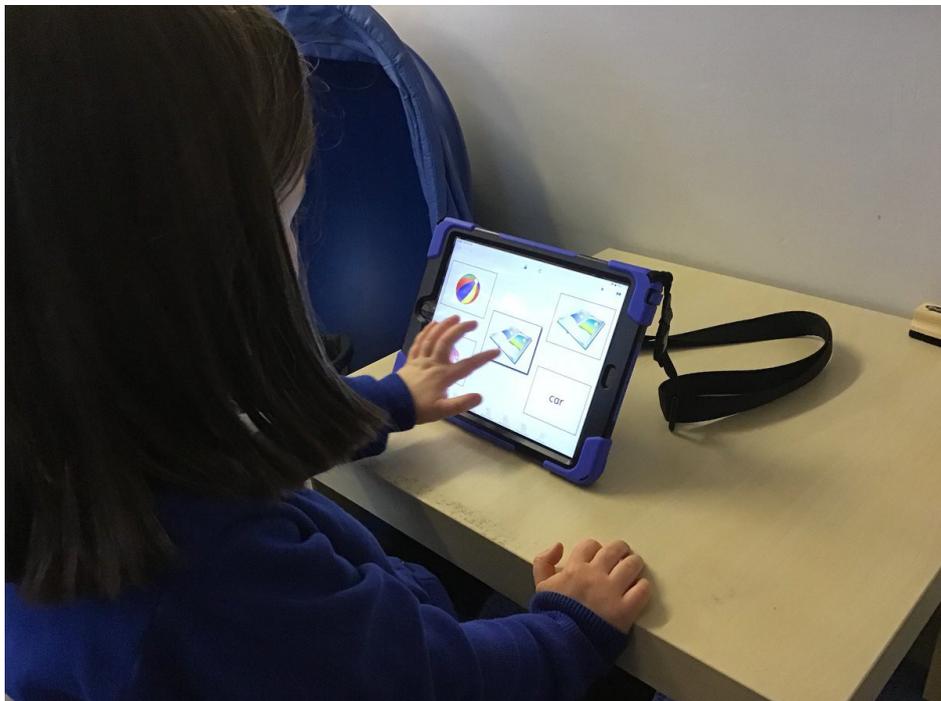
Using the app in his 1:1 sessions also made him engage better when returning to class. We encouraged him to say you know this and now has more confidence to get more involved in class. It has certainly improved his self-confidence.

Child C - Age 9 with Autism using Special Numbers and Match & Find

Child C has additional needs that can be very challenging. He did not always want to learn and was very easily distracted. He was very drawn and excited when he knew he could use an iPad so using Match & Find and building up his sequencing skills showed us what he actually knew and what he could do.

He also liked using Special Numbers as it allowed him to engage with the app on the iPad and concentrate with no distractions. The way the apps have been designed is quite unique and supports children with special educational needs, especially for the needs of Child C. Using the apps also saved us time and allowed us to make the most of his 1:1 sessions. At times he did not always want to join in with the activities but during the trial of the apps, we have been able to give him the opportunity to choose one of the apps and support his learning. Using Special iApps in school with this particular child has enabled him to learn and access appropriate educational resources in his learning style.

- Sarah Boyd (Teaching Assistant)



Child A - Age 4 with ADHD and Autism using Special Numbers

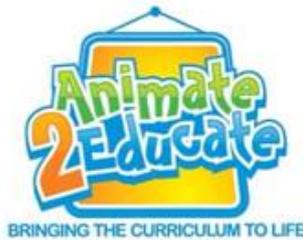
Without the app, I don't think she would have learnt as many numbers as she has done. She especially enjoyed using the Special Numbers app, because maths is her

go to area and it gave her the challenge to go that extra mile. It also allowed her to see how she can use numbers in a different way. Using In The Box activity has progressed her counting as she can count numbers out and also take them away. It is nice to be able to change the objects so that she is not just looking and memorising but learning all of the time.

She liked all of the activities in Special Numbers and we used the settings to change the options and noticed her favourite matching activity was counting flowers. The activity Into The Box especially worked well for her. She surprised us with how fast she completed the activities and showed us how advanced she became. Each week we increased the difficulty gradually, she started off knowing 1 to 5 and has progressed to 1 to 20.

The app has also helped with her memory and concentration, she sits down to do a learning activity on the iPad and achieves more than using a box of physical resources we would normally use which she found too busy and distracting.

- Sam Race (Teaching Assistant)



Martin Bailey
(Director - Animate 2 Educate Ltd)

“The fantastic range of apps from Special iApps are engaging, easy-to-use and enable children to learn at their own pace. They have provided a means of recording for children for whom writing is exhaustive and are now a valuable resource within our school.”

- Martin Bailey (Digital Enrichment Leader at Lanchester EP Primary School and Director of Animate 2 Educate Ltd)